

4. (New) A card connector comprising:

an insulating housing having a plurality of contacts for receiving a card;

a lock member that engages the card;

a positioning mechanism that moves the lock member between a card

release position and a card engagement position and secures the lock member in the card engagement position; and

the lock member having a portion that elastically deforms to disengage from the card when the lock member is secured in the card engagement position when the card is forcibly extracted.

a1 5. (New) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member includes an engagement protrusion that engages the card and a free end portion that flexes to disengage the engagement protrusion from the card when the lock member is in the card release position.

6. (New) The card connector of claim 5, wherein the housing includes a support surface that supports the free end portion in the card engagement position.

7. (New) The card connector of claim 5, wherein the free end portion and the engagement protrusion are offset in a width direction of the lock member.

8. (New) The card connector of claim 4, further comprising a slider attached to the positioning mechanism that moves the lock member between the card release position and the card engagement position.

9. (New) The card connector of claim 8, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a cam groove formed on the housing and a cam follower structured to move in the cam groove according to the movement of the slider.

10. (New) The card connector of claim 9, wherein the cam groove includes a plurality of linear paths and oblique surfaces that guide the cam follower through the linear paths.

11. (New) The card connector of claim 8, further comprising a compression spring that urges the slider toward the card release position.

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12. (New) The card connector of claim 4, further comprising a compression spring that moves the lock member between the card release position and the card engagement position.

13. (New) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a cam follower positioned in a groove in the housing.

14. (New) The card connector of claim 4, further comprising tongues that engage an outer surface of the card to prevent the card from ejecting at an excessive speed.

15. (New) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member is formed from a metal plate.

a' 16. (New) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member deforms by twisting to disengage from the card.
